

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 04187 281229Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
NEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
SSM-03 MCT-01 /072 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4187

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: DESTRUCTION LEVEL IN SOUTH LEBANON: DIFFERING VIEWS

REF: A. USDAO TEL AVIV IIR 6 849 0302 78
B. USDAO TEL AVIV IIR 6 849 0306 78

1. EMBASSY HAS NOTED WASHINGTON POST REPORTER H.D.S. GREENWAY'S ARTICLE IN MARCH 25-26 INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE HEADLINED QUOTE ISRAELI ADVANCE IN SOUTH LEBANON CUTS SWATH OF AGONY, DESTRUCTION UNQUOTE. APPEARS THAT GREENWAY PROBABLY FOCUSED ON ONE TOWN, BINT JUBAYL, AND ONE VILLAGE, WHICH HE CALLS RANDURYA (THIS IS ACTUALLY GHANDURIYIH, JUST SOUTH OF VILLAGE OF FRUN WHICH OVERLOOKS AKIA BRIDGE ON LITANI) AND EXTRAPOLATED HIS OBSERVATIONS IN THESE TWO AREAS TO FIT THE ENTIRE SOUTHERN LEBANON, LESS THE CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES.

2. REF A IS A SUMMARY OF DATT AND ARMA EXTENSIVE TRIP MADE THROUGH SOUTHERN LEBANON ON SAME DAY (24 MARCH) AS GREENWAY DATELINE. REF B, AIRMAILED TO DIA TODAY, IS A TRANSCRIPT OF TAPE RECORDING MADE BY ARMA OF
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PAGE 02 TEL AV 04187 281229Z

ENTIRE TRIP, GIVING DESCRIPTION OF EACH VILLAGE ENTERED, STATUS OF INHABITANTS, RETURN OF REFUGEES, AND IDF POSITIONS. BOTH BINT JUBAYL AND GHANDURIYIH WERE VISITED. BINT JUBAYL WAS A PALESTINIAN STRONGHOLD WHICH THEY, AND PROBABLY SAIQA FORCES AS WELL DEFENDED. GHANDURIYIH WAS AN ABANDONED VILLAGE TRANSFORMED INTO A FORTIFIED POSITION BY THE PALESTINIANS COMPLETE WITH REINFORCED CONCRETE

BUNKERS, MINEFIELDS, ETC. BOTH WERE HARD HIT BY IDF.
HOWEVER, MANY VILLAGES, INCLUDING MUSLIM, WERE NOT HIT
AT ALL AND OTHERS APPEARED TO BE HIT VERY SELECTIVELY.
BASED UPON OBSERVATIONS OF TWO TRAINED MILITARY OBSERVERS,
WE RECOMMEND GREENWAY'S ARTICLE AND OTHER LIKE IT NOT
BE USED AS A BASIS FOR ESTABLISHING CONCLUSIONS REGARDING
THE LEVEL OF DESTRUCTION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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